

## CLAIMS

1. A method for rendering content encrypted according to a cryptographic key, the content having corresponding rights data including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the encrypted content, (KD) in the rights data being encrypted according to a public key of a rights management (RM) server (PU-RM) to result in (PU-RM(KD)), whereby only the RM server having a private key (PR-RM) corresponding to (PU-RM) can apply same to (PU-RM(KD)) from the rights data to obtain (KD), and whereby the RM server normally delivers (KD) within a license that is bound to the content, and whereby the RM server upon being decommissioned can no longer issue any such license, the method comprising:

- receiving a notification that the RM server has been decommissioned;
- attempting to render a piece of content;
- determining that such content is protected to the decommissioned RM server;
- sending a request to the decommissioned RM server for the content key (KD) for the content rather than any license; and
- receiving (KD) from the decommissioned RM server.

2. The method of claim 1 comprising sending the request including the rights data corresponding to the content, whereby the RM server retrieves (KD) from the rights data.

3. The method of claim 1 comprising receiving (KD) from the decommissioned RM server in a non-protected form.

4. The method of claim 1 comprising receiving (KD) from the decommissioned RM server encrypted according to a public key (PU) to result in (PU(KD)), and further comprising applying a corresponding private key (PR) to (PU(KD)) to result in (KD).

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising applying (KD) to the content to reveal same in a naked form without any RM protection.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising saving the content in the naked and non-protected form.

7. A method for a rights management (RM) server to respond to a request to render content encrypted according to a cryptographic key, the content having corresponding rights data including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the encrypted content, (KD) in the rights data being encrypted according to a public key of the RM server (PU-RM) to result in (PU-RM(KD)), whereby only the RM server having a private key (PR-RM) corresponding to (PU-RM) can apply same to (PU-RM(KD)) from the rights data to obtain (KD), whereby the RM server normally delivers (KD) within a license that is bound to the content, and whereby the RM server has been decommissioned and can no longer issue any such license, the method comprising:

receiving the request to render the content, the request including the rights data corresponding to the content;

retrieving (KD) from the rights data by applying (PR-RM) to (PU-RM(KD)) to result in (KD); and

sending (KD) to the requester rather than any license.

8. The method of claim 7 comprising sending (KD) in a non-protected form.

9. The method of claim 7 comprising sending (KD) encrypted according to a public key (PU) to result in (PU(KD)), wherein the requester may apply a corresponding private key (PR) to (PU(KD)) to result in (KD).

10. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for rendering content encrypted according to a cryptographic key, the content having corresponding rights data including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the encrypted content, (KD) in the rights data being encrypted according to a public key of a rights management (RM) server (PU-RM) to result in (PU-RM(KD)), whereby only the RM server having a private key (PR-RM) corresponding to (PU-RM) can apply same to (PU-RM(KD)) from the rights data to obtain (KD), and whereby the RM server normally delivers (KD) within a license that is bound to the content, and whereby the RM server upon being decommissioned can no longer issue any such license, the method comprising:

- receiving a notification that the RM server has been decommissioned;
- attempting to render a piece of content;
- determining that such content is protected to the decommissioned RM server;
- sending a request to the decommissioned RM server for the content key (KD) for the content rather than any license; and
- receiving (KD) from the decommissioned RM server.

11. The medium of claim 10 wherein the method comprises sending the request including the rights data corresponding to the content, whereby the RM server retrieves (KD) from the rights data.

12. The medium of claim 10 wherein the method comprises receiving (KD) from the decommissioned RM server in a non-protected form.

13. The medium of claim 10 wherein the method comprises receiving (KD) from the decommissioned RM server encrypted according to a public key (PU) to result in (PU(KD)), and further comprising applying a corresponding private key (PR) to (PU(KD)) to result in (KD).

14. The medium of claim 10 wherein the method further comprises applying (KD) to the content to reveal same in a naked form without any RM protection.

15. The medium of claim 14 wherein the method further comprises saving the content in the naked and non-protected form.

16. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for a rights management (RM) server to respond to a request to render content encrypted according to a cryptographic key, the content having corresponding rights data including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the encrypted content, (KD) in the rights data being encrypted according to a public key of the RM server (PU-RM) to result in (PU-RM(KD)), whereby only the RM server having a private key (PR-RM) corresponding to (PU-RM) can apply same to (PU-RM(KD)) from the rights data to obtain (KD), whereby the RM server normally delivers (KD) within a license that is bound to the content, and whereby the RM server has been decommissioned and can no longer issue any such license, the method comprising:

receiving the request to render the content, the request including the rights data corresponding to the content;

retrieving (KD) from the rights data by applying (PR-RM) to (PU-RM(KD)) to result in (KD); and

sending (KD) to the requester rather than any license.

17. The medium of claim 16 wherein the method comprises sending (KD) in a non-protected form.

18. The medium of claim 16 wherein the method comprises sending (KD) encrypted according to a public key (PU) to result in (PU(KD)), wherein the requester may apply a corresponding private key (PR) to (PU(KD)) to result in (KD).